

NOTE ON HELCIONISCUS NIGRISQUAMATUS REEVE, SP.

BY GEO. W. TAYLOR.

I have recently received from Mr. Frederick Stearns of Detroit a number of shells collected by himself and labelled as follows :

“ *Patella boninensis*, Bonin Is.”

“ *Patella stearnsii*.”

“ *Patella* near *stearnsii*, Japan, 1892, only 8 found.”

“ *Patella nigrisquamata* (?), Loo Choo Is., Yacyama Is.”

“ *Patella nigrisquamata* (?), a var., Japan, 1892.”

All the specimens sent are, in my opinion, referable to a single species which has long had a place in my cabinet as *H. nigrisquamatus* Reeve.

Reeve's locality for this species was “Australia,” but this has never been confirmed and is doubtless an error. The same I think must be said of the additional locality, “Concepcion Chili,” given by Mr. Pilsbry (in the Manual, XIII, 126), on the authority of Dr. W. S. W. Ruschenberger, for we cannot concede to any limpet a range so extensive as from Japan to Chili, and Japanese shells of which I am now writing are certainly true *nigrisquamatus* if figures and descriptions count for anything. I may add as negative evidence of a certain value that of several thousands of limpets from Chilian and Australian localities that have passed through my hands, I have never seen a specimen, young or old, approaching this species.

With regard to *P. boninensis*, the differences on which Mr. Pilsbry relies are 3 in number (see Man. Conch. XIII, 132). The first *geographical*; but as *nigrisquamatus* has not been found in the same habitat as the original specimens of *boninensis* this distinction no longer holds. Secondly, the *size of the central callus*; but such a difference would hardly be specific, taken by itself, I should think, and moreover, it is not apparent in the series before me. Lastly, Mr. Pilsbry notes the *brown streaks* diverging from the head segment of the central callus. These marks, however, are present in some of the specimens sent as *nigrisquamata* and absent in others sent as *boninensis*, showing either that the original collector was unable to separate his shells accurately or else that the distinction is not a constant one.

As to *P. stearnsii*, if the shells sent to me by Mr. Stearns are conspecific with the type specimens named and figured (from his collection) by Mr. Pilsbry, then in my opinion *stearnsii* is only a young form of *nigrisquamata* and I suspect (from the description) that *Patella grata* of Gould is the same shell. I am, therefore, inclined to write:

Helcioniscus nigrisquamatus Reeve (*Patella*), 1854.

= ? *P. mazatlandica* Sowb., 1831.

= *P. grata* Gould, 1859.

= *P. boninensis*+*P. Stearnsii* Pilsbry, 1891.

Habitat: Japanese Seas, Stearns; "Australia," Reeve, error; "Chili," Ruschenberger, ? error.¹

PEROSTYLUS, THE EMBRYO OF MEGALATRACTUS.

BY H. A. PILSBRY.

In a former number of this journal (June, 1894) the writer proposed a new genus, *Perostylus*, for the *Cerithium (Colina) brazieri* Tryon and another supposed new species. Upon the appearance of the paper describing these forms, I was informed by my encyclopedic friend, Professor Theodore Gill that the type of the new group had been shown by Professor R. Tate to be the embryonic portion of "*Fusus*" *probosciferus*. Some time after, the article by Tate, published in the Proc. Linnæan Society of New South Wales (Australia), Second Series, Vol. VIII, pt. 2,² p. 244, came to hand.

In reference to *Cerithium (Colina) Brazieri*, Professor Tate writes: "The above named gastropodous shell is described in Tryon's Manual of Conchology, Vol. IX, p. 142, and illustrated t. 26, fig. 16. The occurrence of *Colina* in the Eocene beds of Victoria has led me to a study of the recent species, and in doing so I was arrested by the unlike-

¹ Mr. Taylor is unquestionably right in considering *Helcioniscus boninensis* a synonym of *nigrisquamatus* Rv. I had satisfied myself of this by the examination of the National Museum collection some years ago. He errs, however, in placing *H. stearnsii* in the same category as it is a totally distinct thing. Mr. Taylor probably had the young *H. nigrisquamata* before him, as so acute an observer could hardly confuse *stearnsii* with the other species.—ED.

² Issued March 12, 1894.